

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health)

Telephone : COLINDALE 6041 & 4081.
Telegrams : DEFENDER, HYDE, LONDON.



STANDARDS LABORATORY FOR
SEROLOGICAL REAGENTS,
CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY,
COLINDALE AVENUE, LONDON, N.W.9.

Feb 24th

Dear Josh & Esther,

I finally got back here after a number of false starts. The flying services were all upset because of bad weather & then our air-crafter got engine trouble, so it took me a long time to get across the Atlantic. However I had a pleasant three days in Boston at the expense of BACC, though I couldn't think of any bacteriologist to visit there. I had a pleasant week in Washington and a couple of days driving round the Sheandorah Valley with my brother-in-law. Don't miss going there if you get the chance, it's extremely beautiful and has very interesting geology - perhaps you might arrange a seminar at Detrick.

I am having to start right from scratch here as I have been presented with a lab completely devoid of my apparatus. Every time I start to do something I find an essential object missing and have to chase all round the building to get it. However it's a nice lab and there is lots of room in it. I am sharing it with a colleague but she is away at the moment.

having a baby.

I spent a day with Bruce last week. He is in excellent form and has presented me with a draft of the joint paper on H antigen transductions; it's very interesting but I think the editors of the J.G.M. will cut it somewhat as it runs to about 700 words.

All my various parcels of cultures arrived safely & also the books. My wife is very pleased with the cookery book and my son uses the table mat all the time.

As regards work:

① I am not yet very far on with the capsulated (?) H90s as the sera that were sent me as To & To were not absorbed or treated in any way so some of my assumptions were unjustified.

② I have not been able to start making antisera as there has been a bit of a SNAFU over my vivisection license & that has to be cleared up first (should be OK in a day or two).

③ R.E.O. Williams & myself are going to have a shot at transducing antibiotic resistance in staph & strep - do you think this is a good idea?

④ Joan Taylor has presented me with two organisms. The first is an Enteritidis that came from a chronic carrier of many years standing. The second is an Oramienburg which has been isolated recently from the same patient who has simultaneously ceased to excrete Enteritidis. It seems to me well worth while to

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health)

Telephone : COLINDALE 6041 & 4081.
Telegrams : DEFENDER, HYDE, LONDON.



STANDARDS LABORATORY FOR
SEROLOGICAL REAGENTS,
CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY,
COLINDALE AVENUE, LONDON, N.W.9.

investigate the mutual lysogenicity (if any) of these organisms.

⑤ Some of my colleagues here are investigating a peculiar overlap that has appeared between the serology of the "b" and 1 antigens. This is especially marked in S. java antisera, which is interesting in view of the fact that the 1st & 2nd phases of S. java are, as I understood it, both at the same locus. I should be grateful if you could tell me what the experiments were that you did with S. java on this point.

⑥ In response to a request from Ewing made while we were at Chaudler I have dug out a coli which was described by Mushin in the J. Hyg. (47. 227) which has a rather odd capsular antigen. Are you interested in seeing whether it is any good in crosses? We have a good antiserum for the capsule.

I think that completes what I have to say about work. I will let you know as soon as anything interesting occurs (if ever). To-night I am going to a party to which Bill Huges has been invited. Bruce will be there also and we will really give him a

going over. Bruce says that Tim (Quiz Kid) Watson has made a re-analysis of the K-12 cross over data in the light of Hayesology but I don't know any of the details. Hayes apparently is going to spend some time at Cal. Tech. with Mark after the Cold Spring meeting.

In case you haven't seen it there is a rather inky letter from Hirschelwood in Nature for Feb 7th complaining that Lederberg has misunderstood him

I hope you all had a profitable time at Chambers. Give my greetings to everyone at the Lab.

Yours,

Clive.